

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

COME-00 L-03 PA-03 PRS-01 RSR-01 /045 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6333

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FOR KOPP/CLARKE

1. JAOE COUNSELLOR KAORU OKAMOTO CALLED ON THE POST AUGUST 27 TO URGE THE UNITED STATES TO BE THE FIRST NATION TO SIGN A CONTRACT FOR PARTICIPATION IN EXPO. OKAMOTO, SPEAKING ALSO ON BEHALF OF MOFA, EXPLAINED THAT THE FIRST COUNTRY TO SIGN WOULD ASSURE THAT ITS COMMISSIONER-GENERAL WOULD SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSIONERS-GENERAL OF ALL NATIONS. OKAMOTO EXPLAINED FURTHER THAT THE GOJ CONSIDERED AMERICAN CHAIRMANSHIP APPROPRIATE IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP AND THE PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE OF OKINAWA AND ITS REVERSION TO OUR RELATIONSHIP.

2. OKAMOTO ALSO TOLD US THAT THE JAPANESE PLAN A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OCT 18, 500 DAYS PRIOR TO THE OPENING ACTIVITY

TO GAIN MAXIMUM PUBLICITY. AT THAT TIME THEY HOPE TO ANNOUNCE CONTRACTS BY SEVERAL NATIONS AND WOULD HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD AVE BEEN THE FIRST SIGNER.

3. ACCORDING TO OKAMOTO, THREE NATIONS (INCLUDING BRITAIN) HAVE MADE FORMAL COMMITMENTS TO PARTICIPATE, BUT ONLY THE U.S. HAS SENT TECHNICAL EXPERTS FOR A SITE SURVEY. HE

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EXPLAINS THAT THE JAPANESE ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE ADMINIS-

TRATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL PROCESS REQUIRED PRIOR TO A FIRM
AMERICAN COMMITMENT BUT URGES GREATEST HASTE.

4. IN PRACTICAL TERMS, AMERICAN CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE
COMMISSIONERS-GENERAL WOULD MEAN THAT THE AMERICAN C-G WOULD
PRESIDE OVER THE MEETINGS OF ALL C-G'S AS CALLED BY THE
EXPO '75 "COMMISSIONER-GENERAL OF GOVERNMENT" AMBASSADOR
JIRO TAKASE. ALTHOUGH IMPOSSIBLE TO REDICT ACCURATELY AT
THIS TIME, OKAMOTO SUGGESTS THAT APPROXIMATELY THREE MEETINGS
WOULD BE REQUIRED, TWO IN TOKYO AND ONE IN OKINAWA. (FOUR
MEETINGS WERE CONVENED FOR EXPO '70). THE FIRST MEETING
WOULD BE CONVENED SHORTLY AFTER OCT 18 FOR THE PRIMARY
PURPOSE OF APPOINTING A CHAIRMAN AND BOARD. THUS, THE
JAPANESE HOPE AN AMERICAN C-G (OR TEMPORARY C-G) WOULD HAVE
BEEN APPOINTED BY THAT TIME.

5. OKAMOTO TOLD US IN CONFIDENCE HE WOULD BE CALLING THIS
WEEK ON THE BRITISH EMBASSY URGING AN EARLY SITE SURVEY, BUT
HE POINTEDLY SAID HE WOULD NOT RPT NOT URGE AN EARLY
CONTRACT SIGNING.

6. AS STATED EARLIER, THE U.S. MISSION CONSIDERS A
SUBSTANTIAL U.S. PARTICIPATION IN EXPO '75 CLEARLY IN OUR
NATIONAL INTEREST. GOJ SENTIMENTS CONCERNING AMERICAN
CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE C-G'S MUST BE TAKEN AS SERIOUS AND
SIGNIFICANT. THEREFORE, THE POST RECOMMENDS HIGH PRIORITY
BE GIVEN TO EXPEDITING ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AND ASSURING
THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE CONTRACT SIGNING BY THE USG. THE
AMBASSADOR FULLY CONCURS IN THIS RECOMMENDATION AND IS
INFORMING THE DEPARTMENT OF HIS POSITION BY SEPTTEL.
DECONTROL DEC 31, 1973.
CARTER

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